RESTORING

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY STREAMS & RIVERS— Watershed by Watershed

Prince George's County, Maryland, is home to more than 300 miles of streams and rivers that not only provide drinking water, critical wildlife habitat, recreation and educational opportunities, but also play a vital role in our local economy. The Prince George's County Department of the Environment (DoE) is working hard to restore and protect these waters for generations to come.

HOW CAN I HELP?

Attend the public hearing to provide comments on the draft restoration plans!

November 12, 2014 from **6:30 p.m.** to **8:30 p.m.**

Offices of the Department of the Environment
1801 McCormick Drive, Suite 140, Conference Room, Largo, MD 20774

View draft plans at **www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/sites/StormwaterManagement/Services/Streams-Watersheds/Restoration-Planning/Pages/default.aspx**. Comments will be accepted at the meeting or in writing during a 30-day public comment period starting November 1, 2014. Submit comments by email to **LTennekoon@co.pg.md.us** or by mail to Mr. Lilantha Tennekoon, Prince George's County Government, Stormwater Management Division, Department of the Environment, Suite 500, 1801 McCormick Drive, Largo, MD 20774.

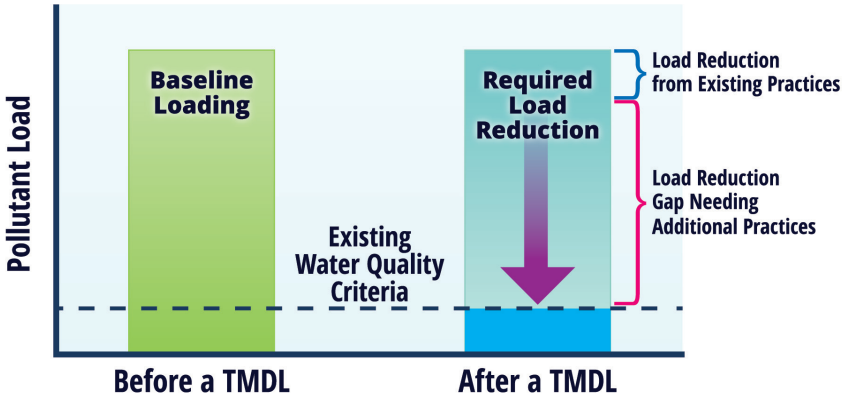
What Are the Challenges Facing Our Waters?

Over the years, as more people moved into the County, the woodlands and open fields that allow rainwater to naturally filter into the ground were replaced with new homes and businesses that brought more rooftops, parking lots, driveways and roads that prevent water from soaking into the ground. Instead of filtering into the ground, rainwater rushes over these hard surfaces, picking up pollutants like oil, dirt, fertilizers, trash and pet waste and carrying them directly, or via storm drains, to our local streams and rivers.

What Is the County Doing to Restore Our Waters?

Many of these polluted water bodies do not meet Maryland's criteria for clean water and thus require Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs). A TMDL is essentially a *pollution diet* that identifies the maximum amount of a pollutant the waterway can receive and still meet water quality standards. The County has developed draft restoration plans for each U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-approved TMDL. These plans spell out what will be necessary to bring our water bodies back to health. The plans also provide an estimated timeline and budget for the restoration activities.

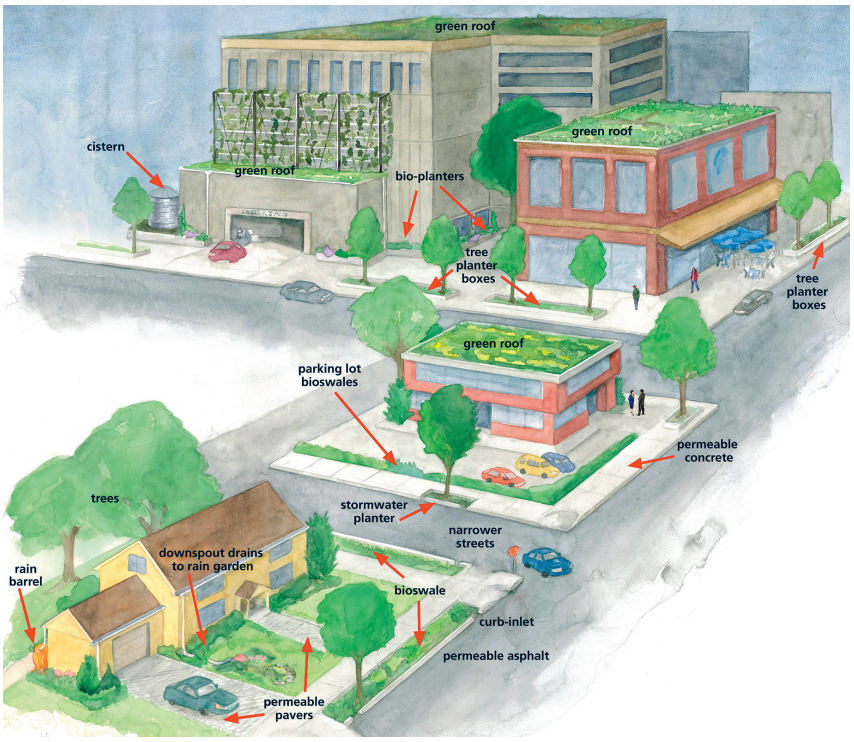
Under the restoration plans, improvements will be made to some existing stormwater infrastructure, such as this degraded outfall, in addition to the installation of new, on-the-ground management practices.



A TMDL identifies the maximum amount of pollutant load that the water body can receive and still meet water quality criteria. The green bar on the left represents the current pollutant load (sometimes called the baseline) that exists in a water body before a TMDL is developed. The elevated load causes the water body to exceed water quality criteria. The blue bar on the right shows the amount that the pollutant load will need to be reduced for the water body to meet water quality criteria.

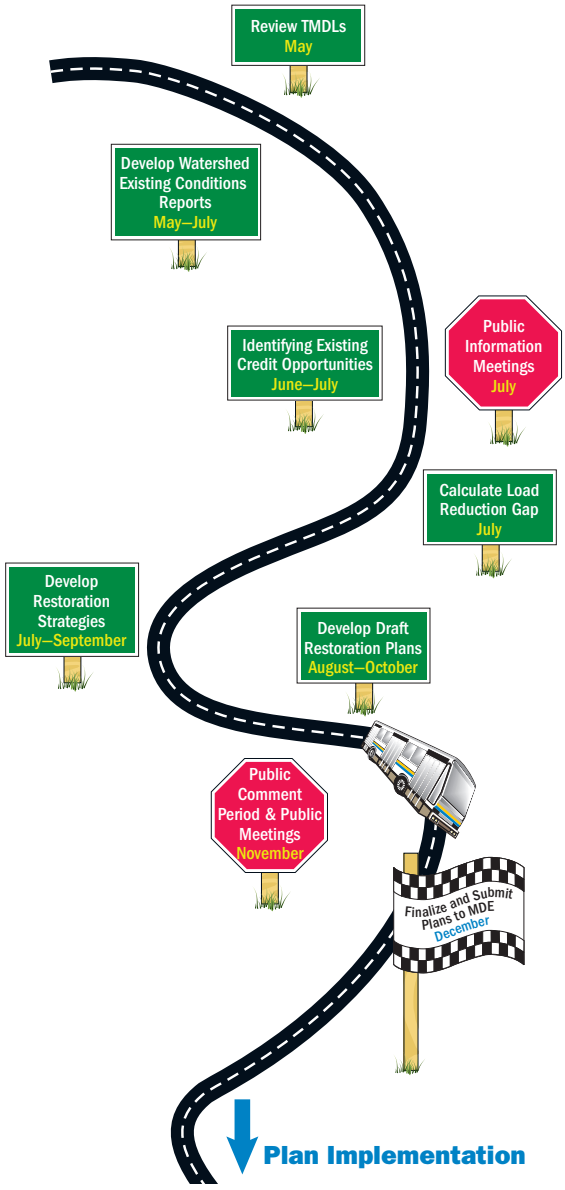
WHAT IS AN MS4?

Polluted stormwater runoff is commonly transported through a municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4), which includes storm drains, pipes and ditches that collect and dump this untreated runoff into local water bodies. To prevent pollutants from being washed into the storm drain system, cities and counties of a certain size, including Prince George's County, must obtain an MS4 permit and carry out measures aimed at reducing pollution.



Conceptual city block with various stormwater management practices. Rain barrels, permeable pavers, bioswales and other water-friendly options will be used throughout the County to improve water quality. Credit: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds

2014 Road Map to Restoration Plans



Why Now?

On January 2, 2014, the Maryland Department of the Environment issued Prince George's County a new MS4 permit. The County's new permit requires the development of local restoration plans for each approved TMDL by January 2015.

What Information Does Each Restoration Plan Contain?

There are restoration plans for five major watersheds—Anacostia River, Patuxent River Basin, Mattawoman Creek, Piscataway Creek and Potomac River. Each plan describes the pollutants and sources of those pollutants specific to each water body; the land uses and natural features in the watershed; the amount of pollutant reductions that need to be achieved in each watershed; and targeted pollutant reduction strategies. The strategies include both programmatic measures as well as on-the-ground, pollution-reducing practices such as infiltration systems, rain gardens, streamside buffers and other types of best management practices.

For more information, visit the County's stormwater website: www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/sites/StormwaterManagement/Services/Streams-Watersheds/Restoration-Planning/Pages/default.aspx
or contact Mr. Lilantha Tennekoon at **301-883-6198** or **LTennekoon@co.pg.md.us.**